

# EACC NEWS

The East Asia Christian Conference is an organ of continuing fellowship and co-operation among the Churches and Christian Councils in East Asia.

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## WORLD CONFERENCE ON SALVATION TO MEET IN BANGKOK

BANGKOK - The World Conference on Salvation Today and the Third Assembly of the Commission on World Mission and Evangelism (CWME) which immediately follows it are to be held here from 29 December, 1972 to 12 January, 1973.

The Executive Committee of the Church of Christ in Thailand (CCT) meeting on October 22, confirmed its General Secretary's invitation to receive the world conference and the CWME assembly in Thailand.

Participants in the World Conference on Salvation numbering approximately 250 persons will listen to the contemporary search for salvation and reflect on it in the light of the Bible. There will be pre-assembly study of a collection of "testimonies" by secular and religious authors which illustrate the search for salvation among men in many different situations. The participants will be divided into groups which will examine the main theme - "Salvation Today."

According to Bishop Chiu Ban It, a member of the Executive Committee of the CWME, "In these groups we will sit under God in an effort to experience the need for salvation, as well as being informed about it." Each person will choose the method most congenial to his temperament; some groups will do formal Bible study, others will use the meditative approach, while some will approach the question through music and the arts. They will examine the implications of the theme for both individual and corporate action.

National meetings are being held by some of the CWME's 44 affiliated councils preceding the Conference.

## HISTORIC UN VOTE ON CHINA

UNITED NATIONS - "The overpowering reality of history has forced open the door of the United Nations to China. The vote ended a meaningless fiction that had shut out China with nearly one-fifth of the world's population for twenty-two years," an item from the Yomuri Shimbon in Japan said.

In a dramatic vote - 76 for and 25 against and with 17 abstentions - the People's Republic of China was invited to take its place in the United Nations. The voting took place at the General Assembly on October 26 in New York.

Only minutes before the vote the Republic of China announced the decision to quit the world body after the defeat of a resolution which had sought to declare that a vote to expel the Republic of China be carried by a two-thirds majority.

The Albanian resolution which was adopted by the Assembly recalled the principles of the Charter of the United Nations, and considered that "the restoration of lawful rights of the People's Republic of China is essential both for the protection of the charter and for the cause that must be served under the charter." It further said that "recognizing that the representatives of the Government of the People's Republic of China are the only lawful representatives ...(and) that it is one of the five permanent members of the Security Council,



decides to restore all its rights to People's Republic of China...and to expel forthwith the representatives of Chiang Kai-shek from the place which they unlawfully occupy at the United Nations and in all organizations related to it."

In the Asian region seven countries voted for the resolution, five against and two abstained. For, were Burma, Ceylon, India, Laos, Malaysia, Pakistan, Singapore; against, were Australia, Japan, New Zealand, Philippines, Khmer; abstaining were Indonesia and Thailand.

The entry of China with its huge territory and population signifies a momentous turning point in the 26-year history of the United Nations and was indispensable to promote the universality of the world body as well as to elevate its prestige.

It is certain to have great repercussions in the Asian situation.

#### BISHOP KULANDRAN TO DO RESEARCH IN INTER-FAITH DIALOGUE

EACC - The Rt. Rev. S. Kulandran, formerly Bishop of the Columbo Diocese of the Church of South India, has begun work on a research project for Inter-Faith Dialogue for the EACC and in cooperation with the Commission on World Mission and Evangelism of the WCC.

Bishop Kulandran will do research on one of the main issues in theological debate: "Is 'Transcendence' a viable concept?"

The Working Committee of the EACC meeting at Madras in 1969, emphasized this topic as one of the main issues in theological debate among Christian theologians. "It is also a major issue in any dialogue between Christians and those of other faiths. What is meant by God when God is affirmed in Hinduism and Islam and when it is denied in Buddhism?"

Since Bishop Kulandran is an acknowledged scholar in the field of Buddhism, he was chosen to make a special study in this area.

#### ASIAN CHRISTIAN COMMUNICATORS SUPPORT JOINT USE OF MASS MEDIA

HONG KONG - Some twenty-five (25) communicators from Asian countries met for five days here, October 4 - 9, 1971 for consultation on the different strategies of both the Roman Catholic and Protestant Churches.

Ten countries were represented by church leaders who are involved in newspaper, television and radio. They assessed the church's use of mass media and print.

Co-Chairmen for the meeting were Bishop O. Gomis of Ceylon (Roman Catholic) and Mr. Mathew Ogawa of Japan (EACC).

The consultation made plans for ecumenical collaboration on communication for development. In a declaration issued at the close of the meeting, they recommended that information and education campaigns be conducted in each country through national information centres and through existing religious and secular media; that local agencies conduct frequent training workshops to upgrade the development concern of working journalists, broadcasters and other communicators.

They further recommended that secular and religious media seek dialogue with leaders of mass action groups to find ways in which mutual understanding, education and action can be achieved. Wherever possible, they said, the masses should be given the opportunity to participate in the process of communication.

The Consultation appointed a task force with responsibility to follow up the recommendations, establish priorities and to plan a time-table of action within each country or region and secure a budget where it is needed.



The declaration stated also that stewardship and partnership of local churches should be used to develop ties between the local church and the media.

SODEPAX, the Committee on Society, Development and Peace of the World Council of Churches and the Pontifical Commission Justice and Peace, Vatican, sponsored the consultation of Asian Church leaders in Communication.

Local SODEPAX committees would have close liaison with communicators and vice versa in order to understand the development issues and communicate these concerns, the declaration said.

#### "Y" WEEK OF PRAYER NOV. 7 - 13

GENEVA - "Come Alive!" is the theme of this years' Week of Prayer and World Fellowship for the World Alliance of YMCA's and the World YWCA. It is being held all over the world from 7 - 13 of November.

The Week of Prayer and Fellowship has been celebrated for over 100 years and care is taken to ensure that the jointly prepared material is suitable for all of the membership of the two sponsoring bodies.

Mr. David M. Robinson, World Alliance of YMCA's and Miss Athena Athanassiou of the World YWCA, the two world presidents wrote: "We are invited, during the Week of Prayer, to take a searching look at ourselves, the world in which we live, our relationships with others and with God in whom alone we can discover the fullness of life. This week should be an exciting journey of discovery into the meaning of life, a lonely journey, in part, since each one of us must come to our own conclusions, reach our own commitment."

The local YMCA/YWCA's are already distributing the booklet for the week and the yearly Bible reading plan.

#### STAFF TRAINING COURSE HELD

SUWON, KOREA - Twenty-five staff members from movements and centres for Christian Social Concern and Lay Training have assembled here for a six-week Staff Training course which began on October 12 at the Korea Christian Academy.

Under the auspices of the Association of Directors of Christian Institutes for Social Concern in Asia (ADCISCA) and of the Life and Action Committee of the EACC, the course is attended by key people who are responsible for on-going programmes of social concern in their own countries. They come from Hong Kong, Australia, India, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, and Taiwan.

The participants will have opportunity to analyze and reflect upon the setting of programmes for lay training in contemporary church and society.

Dr. Won Yong Kang, Vice Chairman of the EACC and Chairman of ADCISCA, welcomed the participants at a reception given them by the local Christian community. Dr. David Suh Kwang-Sun of Korean National Council of Churches, gave the inaugural address. Bible studies on "God's People in the Human Community" are to be led by Dr. Masoa Takenaka, Japan.

The first week's programme broke new ground in the common "search for our basis in the work" of social concern. The remaining weeks will have practical work; tours to community centres and workshop studies on Development, Urban Industrial Mission and Church and Society.

Leaders of the programme include the Rev. Werner Simpfendoerfer, Chairman of the Education and Communication Unit of the WCC; EACC secretaries, Mr. Oh Jae Shik, UIM and the Rev. John England, Coordinator Life and Action Committee; the Rev. Norbert Klein, Secretary of ADCISCA and Professor B. Chung-Hyun, Yonsei University, Seoul.



## WSCF ASIA SECRETARY TRAVELS

BANGKOK - Mr. S. N. Sugunananthan, WSCF Asia Secretary based here, presently on travel in South East Asia had reported on special events of the Student Christian Movement's (SCM) in four countries in the region.

One hundred twenty-five graduate students attended a Vocational Guidance Consultation held at the Anglican Religious Training Centre at Kemmendine, Burma, from October 19 - 22. It was sponsored by the SCM of Burma and the Burma Christian Council.

The participants were graduate students awaiting employment, according to SCM Secretary, Mr. Arthur Ko Lay. "Realizing the limited scope of employment at the present time and the burning desire to serve the country by our Christian youth, we feel that concerted effort should be made to find out means and ways of employing them in vocations that are most suited to their academic training."

"Opportunities in the New Order" was the theme of the consultation led by specialists in secular fields as well as churchmen. They included the Rev. U Ba Hmyin, General Secretary of the Burma Baptist Convention; Mr. William Lay, General Secretary of the National YMCA; Professors Dr. Hla Thwin, Psychology, William Paw, Social Sciences, and U Khin Mg Din, Philosophy. The Rev. S. N. Sugunananthan also participated.

More than 120 student volunteers from different parts of the country had been sponsored since September by the SCM of India to work in the refugee camps in West Bengal. Some medical students among the group, will undertake a survey of certain aspects of the refugee problem, particularly in regard to health. The volunteers were deputed to different camps after a 3-day intensive briefing in Calcutta.

Mr. M. E. Prabhakar, Associated Secretary of the National SCM and Mr. Donald Kessop, West Bengal SCM, in collaboration with the Christian Agency for Social Action (CASA) were in charge of the organizational details. "We hope that this programme of volunteer service will enable students to be more sensitive to the needs of the refugees and more aware of the deeper issues involved," they said.

The SCM of Indonesia, the GMKI, is holding its Third Plenary meeting at Wisma Oikumene, Sukabumi, West Java from October 31 - November 6. The General Secretary, Mr. Tjoa Giok Tjoan who recently returned from studies at the Ecumenical Institute, Bossey, Switzerland, has prepared the meeting.

Twenty-two year old Samuel Azariah has been appointed General Secretary of the SCM of Pakistan and the General Committee meets November 5 - 7 in Peshawar to draw up a programme for the ensuing period. In Karachi, where many Roman Catholics participate in the programme of the SCM and are office-bearers in the committee, Mr. Paul Pakyam, a student leader of the Pakistan Fellowship of Evangelical Students, was elected president.

## BRIEFS . . . .

. The Kyodan, United Church of Japan, has postponed its General Assembly again because of the inability of four of the larger districts to convene assemblies to elect delegates. The 17th Assembly was originally scheduled to meet in October 1970.

. U Kyaw Than, General Secretary EACC, will be attending the meeting of the Commission on Inter-Church Aid, World Refugee Service of the World Council of Churches which is being held at Montreaux, Switzerland from November 15 - 19.

. The Rev. John R. Collins, formerly EACC Secretary for Layman Abroad, has been appointed as Associate Director, Churchmen Overseas Programme of the NCA of the USA. He begins his duties on January 1, 1972.